



PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

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|---|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 10/656,656 | |
| | Filing Date | September 4, 2003 | |
| | First Named Inventor | Christopher RATHWEG | |
| | Art Unit | 3731 | |
| | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned | |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | 5 | Attorney Docket Number | 249212021000 |

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (3 pages) <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form PTO-1449 (1 page)• Return Receipt Postcard |
| Remarks | | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Firm or Individual name | MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP (Customer No. 25226) Hugh H. Matsubayashi - 43,779 |
| Signature | |
| Date | January 27, 2004 |

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 1/27/04 Signature: (Mei Y. Leung)



PATENT
Docket No. 249212021000

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Mei Leung

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Christopher RATHWEG

Serial No.: 10/656,656

Filing Date: September 4, 2003

For: TAPE CARTRIDGE SOFT LOAD
SYSTEM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 3731

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicant submits for consideration in the above-identified application the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Pursuant to the USPTO notice dated July 11, 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i) to provide copies of U.S. Patents and U.S. Published Applications, a copy of the reference is not submitted. The Examiner is requested to make this document of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☐ With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114.
- ☒ Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
 - ☐ A fee is required. A check in the amount of ___ is enclosed.
 - ☐ A fee is required. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below; accordingly, no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below and a check in the amount of ___ is enclosed.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17 is attached to this submission in duplicate.)

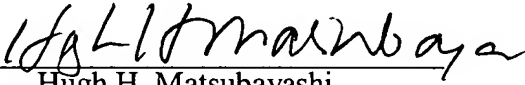
Applicant would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

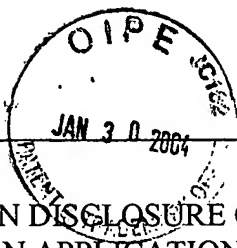
In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 249212021000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: January 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Hugh H. Matsubayashi
Registration No. 43,779

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|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | Docket Number 249212021000 | Application Number 10/656,656 |
| | Inventor(s) Christopher RATHWEG | |
| | Filing Date September 4, 2003 | Group Art Unit 3731 |
| | Mailing Date January 27, 2004 | Examiner Name Not Yet Assigned |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Document Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Document No. | Name | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|----------|----------------------------|
| | 1. | 11/06/2001 | 6,311,915 | Rathwell | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Publication Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Document No. | Country | Translation YES NO |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|--------------------|
| | | | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS*(including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Title |
|-------------------|----------|-------|
| | | |

EXAMINER:**DATE CONSIDERED:**

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.